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Oberlin in Shansi

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The Oberlin in Shansi Brochure (2)

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"The Oberlin in Shansi Brochure (2)" (2017). *Oberlin in Shansi*. 3.
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OBERLIN IN SHANSI



The School Seal 1925

Naturalization Papers

A New Day in Religious Life

Faculty-Student Cooperation

Young China Revolts

Athletics

New Quarters

How It Comes and Where It Goes

CALENDAR, OBERLIN IN SHANSI, 1925-1926

1925

September	10—First Semester Opens
October	2—Moon Festival : a holiday
October	10—Anniversary of the Republic : a holiday
October	14—Confucius' Birthday : a holiday
December 22-25	—Christmas Holidays

1926

January	1—New Year's Day : a holiday
January	27—Final Examinations Commence
February	3—End of First Semester
March	6—Second Semester Opens
April	5—Chinese Memorial Day : a holiday
June	14—Senior Examinations Commence
June	21—Final Examinations Commence
June	27—Baccalaureate Sunday
June	29—Commencement
June	30—End of Second Semester

OBERLIN IN SHANSI, 1924-1925

NATURALIZATION PAPERS.

One of the outstanding events of the year has been the decision to apply for registration as a private school in the government educational system. Graduates from schools registered with the government have special privileges which are not extended to graduates of unregistered schools, such as taking the entrance examinations for government universities and being qualified to vote. Heretofore there has been considerable leniency on these points, but new regulations taking effect this spring are intended to enforce the distinction.

The point at issue as far as Christian schools are concerned is that the regulations for registering provide that specifically religious studies and exercises shall be

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excluded from the curriculum and required exercises of the school. To many even of those who are inclined to recognize the possibly superior effectiveness of voluntary religious activities, this seems like surrendering the possibility of falling back on compulsion for immature students who fail to respond to even the most attractive and well-organized religious education program, and they are not quite willing to burn their bridges. However, both Chinese and American members of our staff and board of managers felt that we were ready to commit ourselves to a religious education program made entirely voluntary as far as worship and Bible study are concerned, and naturalize our schools in the life of China.

A NEW DAY IN RELIGIOUS LIFE.

This does not mean that the students are left to themselves in the moral and religious life. Whereas

formerly, a nominally religious chapel service was required five days a week, now a school assembly of some sort is required the same number of days. On two days a week, the assembly meets in two sections, one as full of the spirit of worship as possible for those who care to register for it and the other a "moral lecture." This change was made this spring term, and it is significant that whereas only half the high school students are



Student Volunteers for the Ministry

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church members, 125 out of 156 high school students chose the former type of service. On the remaining three days, the assembly has been taken up by addresses by outsiders, talks by Seniors, life-work meetings and talks on the main ideas of each group of courses. The preceding sentences concern the high school only. The primary school and kindergarten have their own programs.

Before these changes were made, we had already set aside the Wednesday chapel period for a school prayer-meeting, attendance at which was purely voluntary, and to which there was no alternative service. This arrangement continues, and while the attendance of faculty and students varies and rarely goes above one-fourth of the total number in high school, we feel that it is worth while to give special opportunity for such a selected group.

Next fall, in place of the required Bible study, it is proposed to organize a joint student-faculty "Religious

Investigation Society," which will organize its own study courses in the facts and teachings of the Christian religion, the application of Christianity to modern problems, and comparative religion.

FACULTY-STUDENT COOPERATION.

Such a society will take its place with two existing organizations which have sprung into being this year—the Science Club and the Society for the study of Chinese Culture. These organizations, while formed upon faculty initiative, are offered by students with faculty advisers and have done much to promote voluntary work by students outside the curriculum, working largely in groups on assigned subjects or problems.

The relations between faculty and students during the year have been most cordial, reflecting a healthy spirit of cooperation and good-will in the faculty itself. Faculty members have coached athletics and the dramatics club, and faculty-student contests in various sports have helped to promote fellowship.

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YOUNG CHINA REVOLTS

The year has been full of turmoil throughout the country. In many places there have been anti-foreign and anti-Christian demonstrations (the second type arising from the first) even in Christian schools. Some government educators have adopted resolutions which would change Christian schools into washed-out duplications of government schools. On top of all this, there came the Shanghai incident, made doubly shocking to the Chinese because the victims were students. The relations between foreigners and Chinese have been particularly strained in Shanghai for years, since over a million Chinese in the foreign settlements have no share in the government. It is only natural therefore that China should seek a settlement of the Shanghai tragedy that will do away with the underlying causes of misunderstanding as well as adjudicate the immediate issues.

The Shanghai affair stirred up the students of the country like wildfire. In almost all schools, the students felt that the only way to show their patriotism was to



In Front of the Y Games Room

Young China Revolts

Athletics

strike at once and demonstrate. It speaks well for the sanity of our students that they proposed a better way, and petitioned the faculty to allow them to take their examinations during the review period, in many cases at the cost of poorer marks, and so free them for activities during examination week. This request was granted and a faculty committee as well as individual members cooperated with them in the interest of maintaining a really constructive presentation of China's situation and needs. They lectured, presented two plays, and stirred up the people of the city and county to raise a fund of \$2000 Chinese for the aid of the strikers in Shanghai.

ATHLETICS

The athletic season this spring a little better than broke even as far as outside contests were concerned, as we won in all events with one school and tied with our other competitor. The problem of interscholastic athletics is not less involved in China than in America. Within our walls, two new features marked the athletic work. In the inter-class competition in track, the final standing of each class was determined by the composite score of the individual members of the class for every event. Any student who failed to participate scored zero



A Close Finish for the 220

for his class. The annual track meet, following three weeks of such competition, gave the five best men in each event a chance to better their scores for the sake of the general class score, and went off very well. It was run off exactly on time throughout for the first time in recorded history.

The second new feature was in the contest for the Moyer-Hutchins shield, when it was required that every member of each class should play in at least one of the five sports aside from track. This feature was successful but unfortunately it was impossible to secure a clean cut decision in regard to the shield, as the patriotic excitement interfered with playing off the final matches, and the class that was adjudged winner had won

only three events out of the six. However, we hope for a thoroughly successful season next year.

NEW QUARTERS

The past year has been marked not only by the completion and occupation of the Adelaide Edmonds Memorial, which was formally opened on June 3, but also by the addition of a new building for laboratory, recitation and office purposes, to be known as the Frederic Wyett Fairfield Memorial Building. This building, which was originally built in 1905 as an American Board residence, was purchased in 1909 for the Memorial Association with funds given by Mr. Henry Austin of Oak Park, Illinois, and was used as the residence of the American representative until 1923. Gifts from the family and friends of Frederic Wyett Fairfield, O.C. '68, amounting to \$1500 gold, made possible the addition of a second story, providing commodious rooms for the physics, chemistry and biological laboratories, as well as a study and stock-room combined for the scientific teachers. The lower floor was remodeled and adapted for use as class-rooms and offices, making possible for the first time the holding of all recitations in two buildings for that purpose, instead of in rooms scattered all around the campus.



The Hemingway Memorial Dormitory
(from the new main gate)



The Fairfield Building



Winding Up for the Shot Put

FINANCES, 1924-1925

HOW IT COMES.

O. S. M. A. (including advance on 1925-26)...	Gold \$16,750
American Board (in addition to the salary one family)	500
Tuition and Room-rent	1,076
Other Fees	299
Gifts for Running Expenses	221
Gifts for capital	364
	<hr/>
	\$19,210
Balances on previous year and refund... ..	1,202
Adjustment of exchange	55
	<hr/>
	<u>\$20,467</u>

HOW IT GOES.

Salaries... ..	\$9,121
Service, heat and light	2,091
Repairs	270
Equipment	941
Stationery and Printing	239
Library	172
Athletics and Physical Education	347
Student Activities	22
Laboratory Supplies	45
Manual Training	47
Sundry Expenses	393
Grants from Tuition to Board	184
	<hr/>
Central School Expenses	\$13,872
Publicity	724
Outside Primary Schools	443
Precious Dew Girls' School	332
Fellowship and Scholarship Grants	379
Fellowship and Scholarship Loans	685
Insurance	30
	<hr/>
Total Current Expenses	\$16,465
Cemetery Improvements	200
Sundry Accounts	86
Cash balances—July 31, 1925... ..	3,716
	<hr/>
	<u>\$20,467</u>